

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th September 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	4,000	Shrāvan 1286 B.S.
2	"Grāmavārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	Bhādra ditto.
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	500	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	14th September 1879.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	9th and 16th September 1879.
7	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	9th September 1879.
8	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	.....
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	.....	9th ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	14th ditto.
11	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	12th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	13th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	10th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	12th ditto.
15	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	900	15th ditto.
16	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	235	
17	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	11th ditto.
18	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	516	14th ditto.
19	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	15th ditto.
20	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	19th ditto.
21	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	.....
22	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	.....	8th ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	13th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
24	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Ditto	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
25	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	10th to 16th September 1879.
26	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	15th to 18th ditto.
27	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	11th, 12th, 15th to 17th and 19th September 1879.
28	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	.....
29	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....	9th to 16th September 1879.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
30	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
31	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader	Ditto	.....	15th to 20th September 1879.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	10th September 1879.
34	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....	11th ditto.
35	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
36	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	12th ditto.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
September 9th, 1879.

THE *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 9th September, writes a long article on the changes which, under the auspices of British rule, have taken place in the material, intellectual, and political condition of the people of India. Their advancement has indeed been a signal one; and the circumstance that, at the present time, an increased interest is being shown in the affairs of this country by the people of England augurs well for the future. There is, however, one feature which is not very encouraging. India is being gradually drawn into the vortex of British politics, and the interests of this country would seem to be in danger of being dominated by other powerful adverse interests. It is not, of course, strange that power should occasionally be abused under a despotism; nor is it possible for a ruler of India, who has to deal with so many peoples and conflicting interests, to do justice to his office without taking the public into his confidence and listening to its representations. For a long time past the vernacular newspapers, as fearless exponents of public opinion, had assisted Government with their advice. But ever since Act IX was passed, the Native Editors have lived under a terrorism. The current of public opinion, however, which in India Government has checked by passing the Vernacular Press Act has now begun to flow in England. While we do not advocate a complete change in the system of administration for India,—a change which would make it similar to what obtains in Canada or Australia,—we are of opinion that the time has come when representatives from this country might be admitted into the British Parliament. What we wish to see is that delegates of the people, and not those of the Government of India, should have a place in that assembly. The newspapers should begin to agitate about this matter; and the time could not be more favourable for the purpose than the present. The meeting in Willis's rooms has roused the public attention in England to the state of matters in India, and the Government, it would seem, has at length come to see that, although in India native opinion may be treated with contempt, in England, under the auspices of impartial Englishmen, it acquires a force which it did not possess before.

Representation of India in British Parliament.

BHARAT MIHIR.

2. The same paper refers to the necessity of placing a permanent deputation in England on behalf of the people of India. The success of Babu Lālmohan Ghosh, the delegate of the Indian Association, has clearly shewn this. It will not do to remain satisfied with only making agitations in India, because these do not make any impression upon the authorities here. It behoves the well-wishers of this country to form public opinion and give expression to it in England. We extract the following passages from this article:—"Now what is it that we see in India? We see that in the administration of this vast country, not one soul among the two hundred millions of her inhabitants has the least share. It would seem as though this was not their native land, as though they had no earthly connection with its Government. There are wars undertaken in the interests of this country, but the people are to have no voice in the matter; nor are they ever consulted in the matter of expenditure of their funds, or the imposition of even the most grinding taxes. Natives have a nominal place in the Legislative Councils; but their power is small, while their number bears no appreciable ratio to the whole population of the land. It is for this reason that a development of the people's power is exceedingly desirable. This can only be accomplished by means of a newspaper press and public associations. An unanimity of public opinion is being gradually brought about. It is not that there is no public opinion in the country; it only lacks expression. Even this defect is being now gradually removed."

A permanent deputation in England.

For some years past, particularly from the close of 1876, the system of administration inaugurated by the Government of India has been far from mild and equitable. With the sole exception of Aurungzebe, under the reign of no other Sovereign was so much done to wound the feelings of the people. The only difference between Aurungzebe and the present Viceroy being that whereas the former destroyed all the good work accomplished by his ancestors, and deliberately betook himself to a course of tyranny and oppression, Lord Lytton has not upset the beneficial measures which were undertaken by his predecessors in office, and does not seem to have embarked upon the present inequitable system of administration of his own accord. But whether initiated by himself or not, the result has been all the same. The license tax has proved a more cruel engine of oppression than the *jizia* imposed by Aurungzebe. In any other country, the oppressions and heart-burnings caused by this tax would have made its continuance impossible for more than a month. Two years ago India did not dream of an Arms Act or a Vernacular Press Act.

BHARAT MIRAR,
September 9th, 1879.

3. The *Prabhatī*, of the 10th September, remarks, in reference to the recent occurrences in Cabul, that the motive which led the British Government, which is not ignorant of the turbulent character of the Afghans, to send Sir L. Cavagnari to that city with an insufficient escort is perfectly incomprehensible. The boastful language used in the Afghan despatch is now totally discredited, while the wisdom of those statesmen who opposed the policy of the Afghan war, and predicted danger from its prosecution, has been justified in a striking manner. The war now begins afresh, and blood and treasure must be poured without stint.

PRABHATI,
September 10th, 1879.

4. Writing on the outbreak at Cabul, the *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 13th September, makes observations similar to those noted in the foregoing paragraph.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
September 13th, 1879.

5. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 14th September, prefaces his account of the massacre with the following remarks:—
Ever since the commencement of the Cabul war, we have repeatedly observed that the disposition of the Afghans is not like that of the Bengalis, and that evil instead of good would accrue from any attempt to worry them. We further remarked that, unless a large army were kept up in Cabul for a long time to put a stop to the prevailing anarchy, the country could never be brought under subjection. Government, however, priding itself upon the possession of a superior wisdom, did not listen to our counsels at the time. But it has had to pay dear for its rashness. What we had feared has since come to pass. As in the days of Lord Auckland, owing to the inconsiderateness of a single person, many have lost their lives. The incident will injure the influence of the Premier, and is likely to deprive Lord Lytton of the comforts of a residence in Simla.

DACCA PRAKASH,
September 14th, 1879.

6. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 14th September, contains an article headed "A moment which is both opportune and inopportune," from which we make the following extracts:—Now that the attention of men like Bright, Gladstone, and others has been directed to India, the opportunity has presented itself for forwarding to them memorials regarding our wants and grievances. But the moment is also inopportune, for there is to be war again in Cabul. In utter disregard of the counsels of many, Lord Lytton determined to place a British Resident in Cabul; and actually sent there Sir L. Cavagnari with an escort of about 200 men for this purpose. After referring to the massacre of the Envoy and his suite, the writer proceeds to observe:—The news of the death of Sir L. Cavagnari led men to gravely look at each other just as it is usual for them to look with wonder and sorrow whenever any

SADHARANI,
September 14th, 1879.

public officer of high position happens to meet with an unexpected death at the hands of an enemy. But the feelings evoked on this occasion have not been precisely similar to those which were produced by the news of the murder of the late Justice Norman. It is the prevailing impression that in the Cabul war Lord Lytton has unnecessarily incurred a large expenditure, and imposed upon the British public by shewing them feats of magic. The death of the Envoy has dissipated the illusions, lifted up the curtain, and broken the magical spell, while it reveals the figure of Lord Lytton, the author of the magic, bitterly weeping on the heights of Simla; and it is owing to this that the sorrow at the death of Cavagnari has not found place in many hearts; nay, on the contrary, the people are rather glad that the illusions connected with the treaty of Gundamak have been dispelled. For our part, we cannot even in the secret recesses of our hearts share in this under-current of joy. We see that, whatever fate may befall others, India will have again to incur a vast expenditure. Now when floods have destroyed the crops in Bengal; when Madras and Bombay have not yet been able to settle down into their normal condition; when in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab prices are ruling high; and when harassed by taxation, the people, although remarkable for their peaceful disposition, have broken out into rebellion, a fresh war, undertaken at the costs of this country, will simply prove her ruin. The hour could not be more adverse.

SADHARANI.
September 14th, 1879.

7. The same paper notices with regret that Government pays no heed to the public opinion in this country; nor does it desire to listen to its voice. The rulers have never acted in deference to the wishes of the people, and by passing the Press Act they have shown that they do not desire to know what these are. That in spite of this the people complain, and the newspapers write now about the home charges, taxes, the malarious fever, and again of the expensiveness of litigation and the Arms Act, and other matters, is because they cannot help doing this. They cry because there are circumstances which compel them to do so. This is the time for giving expression to their woes. The god-like hearts of Brights and Gladstones in England have been moved by the tale of India's grievances, and their high-wrought feelings are finding vent in language of strong denunciation. It is for the people of this country to keep up the agitations that are now being made in England, and to sustain the exertions of their friends by setting on foot corresponding movements in this country.

SADHARANI.

8. We cull the following from an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—Certain English papers are counselling an annexation of Cashmere; and it is just possible that Government too may be disposed to bring that lovely mountainous valley under its direct control. Who will deny a small thing as this to the Lord of the Empire? Why should the steward object to a certain treasure-house being placed directly under the master of the house? The arguments adduced in support of annexation are indeed very sound! They are to the effect that Cashmere is not well governed, that the administration of justice is not satisfactory, that the famine has not yet been suppressed, that annexation of this territory would further strengthen the newly-acquired scientific frontier, and others of a similar character. Now, we do not believe that the severity of the famine in Cashmere will disappear as soon as it is brought under the direct administration of the British Government. If the latter had possessed any such virtue, a famine would not have carried off a third of the population of Orissa, nor would thirty lakhs of human beings have perished from the same cause in Madras; while enormous loss of life and treasure in Behar would have been an impossibility. As to the strengthening of the scientific frontier, results of the measure have been made evident during this week. There has been an outbreak at Cabul,

Major Cavagnari has lost his life, and the sturdy and unconquerable mountaineers have again taken to hostilities against the English. How again could we believe that annexation would improve the administration of justice in Cashmere? The memory of the Fenuah cases, the imprisonment of Rajchandra, Lalchand's case, the Meherpore cases, and of the case of Jitlul, is enough to lessen our respect for the administration of justice under the British Government. Of course, if Government desires annexation, it is at liberty to make it, and we have not anything more to say. But if the measure is sought to be justified on the grounds alleged above, we do not believe that those grounds will cease to exist after an annexation has been made.

9. We give below the substance of three articles in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 15th September, on the outbreak at Cabul, and the course which Government should

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
September 15th, 1879.

The outbreak at Cabul.

now pursue towards Afghanistan:—The news of the massacre of the Envoy and his suite in Cabul has filled our hearts with sadness, but it was neither unexpected, nor has it taken us by surprise. We apprehended some such disaster when the proposal was first made for placing a British Resident in Cabul; and in former issues of this paper we gave expression to our fears. Not one of the former Viceroys, who were experienced diplomatists, ever entertained this proposal. This time too Government was warned against the course it had resolved upon. In fact, no one who has studied the history and character of the Afghans could approve of it. The people of Afghanistan are noted for their strength, courage, unruly disposition, and a sturdy love of independence. They cherish an extreme hatred towards Englishmen. The force of circumstances may compel a particular Amir to acknowledge the supremacy of the British Government, but his people will never do so, and will always seek to get rid of the enemy. All these considerations had weight with Lord Lawrence when he expressed himself so forcibly against the proposal to place a British Envoy at the Court of Cabul. Lords Mayo and Northbrook, as also not a few experienced statesmen consulted by them, were of his opinion. Government, however, disregarded their counsel and the warnings of the press, and, maddened by success, sent Sir L. Cavagnari to Cabul as its Envoy. Hardly six weeks have elapsed before this Envoy is murdered. Where is now the force of the boastful and taunting language employed by Government in reference to the warnings of its political adversaries? Hardly has the first war been terminated when the Government finds itself under the necessity of entering upon the second. Lord Lawrence has passed away from this world, but his predictions are now fulfilled.

But now that the tragedy has been enacted at Cabul, the question arises—Who is responsible for it? Who is responsible for the massacre of Sir L. Cavagnari and his suite? The character of the

Who is responsible for the death of Cavagnari?

Afghans was not unknown to Government. Why then, in spite of the warnings of all experienced diplomatists, did Lords Beaconsfield and Lytton send an Envoy to Cabul? Why again was he sent there with such an insufficient escort? The action of Government throughout this Afghan war has been such that Lords Beaconsfield and Lytton cannot absolve themselves from the full measure of responsibility for the premature deaths of Sir L. Cavagnari and his escort.

But what should Government do now? Everybody is loudly crying for revenge. We, too, are of opinion that the cruel murderers of the Envoy should be

What should Government do now?

visited with condign punishment, and the power of the British Lion displayed. The question, however, arises—Upon whom will Government take revenge? There has not been yet time to ascertain the disposition

of the Afghans, or the share, if any, which the Amir may have had in the late massacre. It is probable, considering the position of Yakub Khan, and the obligations he owes to the British Government, that in the present instance he is perfectly innocent. The whole truth, however, will be known when the British Army arrives triumphant at Cabul. But what will be done after victory has been obtained? If the Amir should be found to have been innocent, would the treaty of Gundamuk remain intact, and another British Resident be sent to Cabul in place of Cavagnari? If that were done, there is nothing to shew that the tragedy which has now taken place would not be acted over again. The events of the second Afghan war have been but a repetition of those of the first. It would not therefore be wise to revive the conditions of the treaty of Gundamuk. The only feasible course with regard to Afghanistan that now lies before Government is confined to a choice between either a permanent annexation of the country, or a retirement from it after adequate punishment has been inflicted upon the Afghans and measures taken to retrieve the prestige of the British Government. Now, the former course is open to three grave objections. First, it would make British territory contiguous to the Russian dominions. A strong allied State intervening between them as a neutral zone would be a better safeguard against any fear of Russian advance. Secondly, annexation would necessitate the stationing of a large army in Afghanistan, the cost of which, added to the civil charges, would amount to a sum which the revenues of poor Afghanistan would not be able to meet. India, too, with an Exchequer labouring under chronic deficits, and with an impoverished and tax-ridden people, would not be found to be in a position to lend any aid; so that England would be saddled with all this expenditure, although she has no need to desire an extension of her territories. Thirdly, it is inequitable to deprive a people of their independence merely for selfish purposes. The other course is therefore the only one which should be adopted by Government. By adopting it, England will enhance her prestige, while she will escape the injurious consequences which an annexation of Afghanistan would have brought upon her.

SAHACHAR,
September 15th, 1879.

10. Writing on the same subject, the *Sahachar*, of the 15th September, remarks that, "although we have consistently opposed the Afghan policy of Government, this is, however, not the time to make any adverse comments. The Afghans have committed a most guilty act for which they must be punished. Government may know that it has the full sympathy of the public in its efforts to visit the perpetrators of the murder of the Envoy with condign punishment." Government, however, should proceed with caution to execute its task. The evil has been done already, and no amount of haste will help to undo it.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
September 16th, 1879.

11. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 16th September, in referring to the vast preparations that are being made for the advance of the British Army into Afghanistan for the purpose of punishing the murderers of Sir L. Cavagnari and his suite, remarks as follows:—Where is the enemy to fight with? Certainly it is not the Amir who can be regarded as such. In the first place, if one rumour is to be believed, he has been already killed, and according to another, he has had no hand in the late massacre. At any rate, the present Government cannot hold him guilty after having confided in him so much. Lord Lytton has made two great blunders in this war—namely, the sending of a British Resident to Cabul; and secondly, allowing him such a small escort. Be that, however, as it may, it is clear that the preparations which are now being made have not for their object the punishment of Yakub Khan. Where then is the enemy? If the Russians are meant, they will not be found in Afghanistan, nor are they now in a position to

provoke the hostility of the British Government. What then will be the end of this war? Will it be a war with a shadow?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

12. Adverting to the rules recently promulgated by Government for the admission of natives of India into the Covenanted Civil Service, the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 10th September, does not approve of the system of nomination, on the ground that it is likely to lead to favoritism; and the selection of incompetent men whose failure may be taken advantage of to throw discredit on the whole scheme for the promotion of natives to the Civil Service. Competition on equal terms with the European candidates is advocated. The power of appointment and dismissal should be the same for Native and European candidates.

HINDU RANJIKA,
September 10th, 1879.

13. In an article on this subject, the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 13th September, reproduces the remarks of the *Bhārat Mihir*, noticed in paragraph 22 of our last Report.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
September 13th, 1879.

14. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 14th September, commenting on the recently published Civil Service Rules, makes remarks similar to those noticed in paragraph 8 of our last Report.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
September 14th, 1879.

15. Adverting to the proposal to abolish the office of Press Commissioner with the Government of India, and the opinions expressed by some of the papers in favor thereof, the *Sādhārani*, of the 14th September, writes as follows:— We believe it is necessary that there should be an official news writer. The arrangement would be likely to have many advantages. The present one, however, we do not approve of; and this because the news now supplied are generally useless, stale, and ambiguously worded; and secondly, because certain favourite journals, obsequious to Government, are supplied with official information before the Press Commissioner is allowed to furnish them to the press. Another thing is that the Bengali of the *communiqués* issued from his office is generally very difficult of comprehension. A good Bengali scholar should be entertained. The present establishment of the Press Commissioner is a very costly one. Why should this officer, who is, at best, but a master-messenger, be allowed such a high salary?

SADHARANI,
September 14th, 1879.

16. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 15th September, notices an instance of irregularity on the part of an assistant of the Calcutta General Post Office, which occasioned considerable inconvenience to the party concerned. A friend of the Editor went there last Thursday with a view to send to Darjeeling a parcel containing Rs. 100 after having duly insured it. Now, the assistant referred to above told him to come next day at 7 or 8 A.M. with the parcel, and after having filled up a blank form which he then gave him. Next day, however, when the gentleman presented himself at the Post Office at the stated time, he found the door shut; but hearing some noise inside, began to knock at it. Whereupon the same assistant told him to call again after twelve o'clock, and would not listen to any remonstrance. Now, the whole proceeding was contrary to the rules laid down in the Postal Guide. The attention of the Postmaster-General is directed to the matter, as also to the desirability of arranging for the insurance of value-payable parcels at the different Branch Post Offices in Calcutta.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
September 15th, 1879.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th September, directs the attention of Government to a memorial made by the inhabitants of Baidyabati to the Lieutenant-Governor,

SAHACHAR,
September 15th, 1879.

The Baidyabati Police.

regarding the report of the Joint-Magistrate of Hooghly, embodying the result of investigations into certain charges brought against the local Sub-Inspector of Police. The report of the Magistrate, it is remarked, is imperfect, and his conclusions not well-founded. The investigation was held on a day on which most of the leading residents of the place were unavoidably absent in Calcutta. Still many of the charges were proved; and the Sub-Inspector has been obliged to resign his post. This is not, however, satisfactory; and His Honor is asked to grant permission to criminally prosecute this offending officer of the police. This is urgently required in the interests of justice.

EDUCATION.

DACCA PRAKASH,
September 14th, 1879.

18. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 14th September, refers to a circular recently issued by Babu Bhudeb Mookerji, Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, in which the passed students of the Normal Schools, who are now in the service of the Education Department, are warned against neglect of duty or any other fault unbecoming a teacher on pain of dismissal. The Editor, while commending this instance of strictness on the part of the Babu, would also advise him to be considerate towards this overworked, but ill-paid, class of public servants. Why not be equally severe upon the teachers of English schools? The passed students of the Normal Schools have all received a superior education, but because it has been imparted through the medium of the vernacular their scale of remuneration is so low. This does not certainly speak well for the cause of the vernaculars. It is because their income is very small, that some of the men referred to in the circular are tempted to supplement it in other ways which necessarily interfere with a strict discharge of their proper duties. It therefore behoves the Babu to seek to improve the status of these teachers, while he is ready to punish them for the least fault which they may commit.

LOCAL.

SAHACHAR,
September 16th, 1879.

19. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 15th September, asks Government to send a supply of rice for gratuitous distribution and sale to the inhabitants of Hridaypore and adjacent villages in sub-division Meherpore. These villages are entirely under water, and there is severe distress.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
September 9th, 1879.

20. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th September:—
The value of political agitations. Under the influence of English education, the people of India are gradually learning to understand their rights and to discriminate between right and wrong. They now consider themselves entitled to discuss the policy which is followed in the administration of India. The rulers, as a body, are pleased at this improvement in the condition of the natives, and are, in practice, willing to listen to their reasonable representations. But all are not such. There are some among the authorities who cannot bear criticism, and are ever on the alert to punish the person who may have given them offence in this way. Many among the people are deterred by this consideration from any discussion of public measures, and would seem to think that any action on their part, which might offend the rulers, was little short of sedition, and as such ought to be avoided by all means. There are others again who totally misapprehend the object of such public bodies as the

Indian Association, and keep themselves aloof from their movements. These men attribute the existence of the Association to a desire to subvert British rule in India. These certainly are idle fears. Political agitation is not sedition, and when made by a subject people as that of India, can only emanate from a desire to see the administration freed from all defects and shortcomings. Nor does the British Government, as a matter of fact, regard them with disfavor.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 20th September 1879.

